



**House Bill 5944  
Proponent Testimony**

Gary Dougherty  
Director, State Government Affairs  
American Diabetes Association  
House Health Policy Committee  
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Chairman Vaupel and Members of the House Health Policy Committee:

My name is Gary Dougherty and I am the Director of State Government Affairs for the American Diabetes Association.

I regret that I am unable to join you this morning; however, on behalf of the more than 3.8 million Michiganders with or at risk for diabetes, the American Diabetes Association (ADA) urges your support for House Bill 5944 which would ensure that the value of co-pay assistance programs is applied toward a patient's cost-sharing obligation.

This legislation is in response to individuals using co-pay coupons to help pay for expensive medications that the individual and the treating provider decided together to be the best course of treatment. Whereas ADA recognizes that cost-sharing coupons are not a long-term solution to prescription drug affordability issues, they can be essential to ensuring individuals with high cost-sharing requirements are able to afford medications their providers deem necessary, including insulin, for which there is no generic available. Therefore, payments made toward these medications should be counted towards the patient's cost sharing expenses.

Diabetes is a serious disease, and effectively managing it is a critical proposition. The American Diabetes Association believes that every person living with diabetes should have access to the care, treatments, tools and information they need to successfully manage their diabetes. It is vital that people with diabetes have the opportunity to work with their health care providers to choose the most appropriate therapeutic option that best meets their individual needs at that particular time. To ensure their access to life-saving treatment, the practice of co-pay accumulator adjustments must be eliminated.

Ensuring all people with and at risk for diabetes have access to adequate and affordable health care is among ADA's Legislative and Regulatory Priorities. House Bill 5944 will help achieve that goal. To protect patients from facing unexpected out-of-pocket costs, the American Diabetes Association supports House Bill 5944 and urges your support as well.

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